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**TESTIMONY OF  
ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
BEFORE THE ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
MARCH 17, 2009**

I appreciate the opportunity to express opposition to Senate Bill 1133, An Act Concerning Innovative Energy Technologies.

This proposal creates a separate funding process for certain voltage regulation technologies that conserve energy, and improve grid efficiency. Any company using such technology would be entitled to a tax credit funded through the Conservation and Loan Management Fund.

The Conservation and Load Management Fund uses electricity ratepayer dollars. The funds are distributed in accordance with a plan developed by the Electricity Conservation and Load Management Board and approved by the Department of Public Utility Control. The plan must be consistent with the Comprehensive Integrated Resource Plan so that these conservation funds are used to meet the state's goals of reducing electricity demand and usage. The Board very carefully reviews each application, approving only programs and projects that meet a rigorous cost-effectiveness standard.

Senate Bill 1133 would create an exemption or earmark for a preferred technology even if that technology does not meet the Board's tough standards for return on investment or even if the application of that technology does not meet our overall state goals.

If the voltage technology in this legislation is truly efficient and beneficial, it will be funded through the ECMB. If it does not meet those goals, then the ECMB funds should be used for more efficient and effective conservation projects.

I urge the committee's rejection of Senate Bill 1133.